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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are not rendered obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.

The applicants will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-16, 18-21, 29-44, 46-49, 51 and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moy, "Network Working Group RFC 1583," OSPF Version 2 (March 1994) ("the Moy paper"), and Sandick et al., "Network Working Group Internet Draft," Fast Liveness Protocol (FLIP) (February 2000) ("the Sandick paper"). The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection in view of the following.

Independent claims 1, 11, 18, 29, 39 and 46 have been amended to recite the aggregated message includes at least two indicators, each indicator identifying a different one of the at least two different interfaces

*(of a node or data forwarding device) and corresponding forwarding liveness status information* of the at least two different interfaces as data within the aggregated message and that *the forwarding liveness status information includes an integrity and correct operation of a forwarding table (of the node or data forwarding device)*. These amendments are supported by Figures 4 and 7, paragraphs [0012], [0041] and [0069], and original claims 16, 21, 44 and 49.

Neither the Moy paper nor the Sandick paper, teaches composing an aggregated message including *at least two indicators, each indicator identifying a different one of the at least two different interfaces and corresponding forwarding liveness status information* of the at least two different interfaces as data within the aggregated message, such that *the forwarding liveness status information includes the integrity and correct operation of forwarding tables*. Thus, in view of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 11, 18, 29, 39 and 46 are not rendered obvious by the Moy and Sandick papers. Since claims 2-10 and 51 directly or indirectly depend from claim 1, since claims 12-16 and 53 directly or indirectly depend from claim 11, since claims 19-21 depend from claim 18, since claims 30-38 directly or indirectly depend from claim 29, since claims 40-44 depend from claim 39, and since claims 47-49 depend from claim 46, these claims are similarly not rendered obvious by the Moy and Sandick papers.

Further with respect to claims 51 and 53, these claims further recite that forwarding liveness status information of at least one of the at least two different

interfaces included in the aggregated message further includes a **forwarding liveness state set to interface monitor not reporting**. Specifically, exemplary embodiments consistent with the claimed invention may include an interface monitor **which monitors the status of the local interface**. For example, node A 710 in Figure 7 may include a monitor M 716 **which locally monitors forwarding capability** of node A over interfaces A-B 724 and A-C 728. (See Figure 7 and paragraph [0069] of the present application.) The monitor may explicitly report that the local interface is not reporting.

In rejecting these claims, the Examiner contends that the Moy paper

discloses the failure to receive hello messages within the RouterDeadInterval serves as indication that the neighbor interface is down, a down state indicates that the interface is not reporting...

(Paper No. 20090212, page 18) However, "failure to receive hello messages within the RouterDeadInterval" does not teach explicitly signaling that a local interface monitor is not reporting. Thus, claims 51 and 53 are not rendered obvious by the Moy and Sandick papers for at least this additional reason.

Claims 17, 22, 45 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Moy and Sandick papers, and further in view of Simpson, "Network Working Group RFC 1989," PPP Link Quality Monitoring (August 1996) ("the Simpson paper").

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Claims 17, 22, 45 and 50 depend from claims 11, 18, 39 and 46, respectively. Since the purported teachings of the Simpson paper do not compensate for the deficiencies of the Moy and Sandick papers with respect to claims 11, 18, 39 and 46 as amended (discussed above), these claims are not rendered obvious by the Moy, Sandick and Simpson papers, regardless of the purported teachings of the Simpson paper, and regardless of the presence or absence of an obvious reason to combine these references as proposed by the Examiner.

Claims 52 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Moy and Sandick papers, and further in view U.S. Patent No. 7,362 700 ("the Frick patent").

Claims 52 and 54, as amended, depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively. Since the purported teachings of the Frick patent do not compensate for the deficiencies of the Moy and Sandick papers with respect to claims 1 and 11, as amended (discussed above), these claims are not rendered obvious by the Moy and Sandick papers and the Frick patent, regardless of the purported teachings of the Frick patent, and regardless of the presence or absence of an obvious reason to combine these references as proposed by the Examiner.

### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the

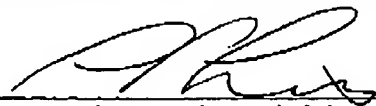
applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Any arguments made in this amendment pertain **only** to the specific aspects of the invention **claimed**. Any claim amendments or cancellations, and any arguments, are made **without prejudice to, or disclaimer of**, the applicants' right to seek patent protection of any unclaimed (e.g., narrower, broader, different) subject matter, such as by way of a continuation or divisional patent application for example.

Since the applicants' remarks, amendments, and/or filings with respect to the Examiner's objections and/or rejections are sufficient to overcome these objections and/or rejections, the applicants' silence as to assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action and/or to certain facts or conclusions that may be implied by objections and/or rejections in the Office Action (such as, for example, whether a reference constitutes prior art, whether references have been properly combined or modified, whether dependent claims are separately patentable, etc.) is not a concession by the applicants that such assertions and/or implications are accurate, and that all requirements for an objection and/or a rejection have been met. Thus, the applicants reserve the right to analyze and dispute any such assertions and implications in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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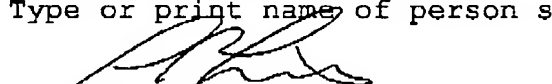
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August 5, 2009

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